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JLW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tomihiko AZUMA

Title: ENTERPRISE INFORMATION
FILTERING SYSTEM, ENTERPRISE
INFORMATION FILTERING METHOD,
AND STORAGE MEDIUM STORING
THEREIN PROGRAM

Appl. No.: 10/032,078

Filing Date: 12/31/2001

Examiner: G. L. Robinson

Art Unit: 2177

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Commissioner:

I hereby certify that the following paper(s) and/or fee along with any attachments referred to or identified as being attached or enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a) on the date of deposit shown below with sufficient postage and in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

1. Information Disclosure Statement
2. PTO SB08 form (6 references enclosed)
3. Postcard

October 7, 2004

Date

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Blumenthal
Reg. No. 26,257

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tomihiko AZUMA

Title: ENTERPRISE INFORMATION
FILTERING SYSTEM,
ENTERPRISE INFORMATION
FILTERING METHOD, AND
STORAGE MEDIUM STORING
THEREIN PROGRAM

Appl. No.: 10/032078

Filing Date: 12/31/2001

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Art Unit: 2177

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

2. The inventions related to the following claims of this application do not fulfill the requirements stipulated in the body of Japan Patent Law Article 29 Paragraph 1, and therefore cannot receive a patent.

Note

Claims 1 and 4 are not specific regarding the point that concrete hardware resources are utilized, and because we do not find that the content described in Claims 1 and 4 is “software-based information processing that has been concretely realized using hardware resources,” [Claims 1 and 4] are found not to be “the creation of a technical idea utilizing natural principles.”

3. The inventions related to the following claims of the present application could have been easily invented by a person with ordinary knowledge of technology in the field to which the inventions belong prior to the filing of this application based on the inventions recited in the publications below, which had been distributed in Japan or abroad prior to the filing of this application, or on inventions made publicly available for use by means of telecommunications networks prior to the filing of

this application, and therefore cannot receive a patent according to the stipulations of Article 29, Paragraph 2 of the Japan Patent Law.

Note (for a list of the cited literature, see the List of Cited Literature)

<Claims 1 through 6>

Described in Cited Literature 1 below is a system to automatically transmit email (“contents” in the present application). Specifically described is a configuration that updates the email address (section manager, supervisor, etc.) according to importance, and we find that the inventions related to Claims 1 through 6 do not make a unique inventive step relative to the configuration described in Cited Literature 1.

List of Cited Literature

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H08-314827

Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results

• Searched fields IPC 7th Edition G06F 17/30

DB name JICST file (JOIS)

• Prior Art Literature

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2002-183421

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2002-183391

Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H08-065335

An English translation of the foreign-language documents is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). However, it is believed that References A1 and A6 are in the same family of patents and that references A2 and A4 are in the same family of patents.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

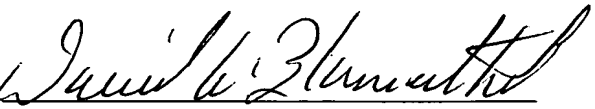
The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.704(d) that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement..

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date October 7, 2004

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
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By 

David A. Blumenthal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,257

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Date Submitted: October 7, 2004

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/032078
Filing Date	12/31/2001
First Named Inventor	Tomihiko AZUMA
Group Art Unit	2177
Examiner Name	G. L. Robinson
Attorney Docket Number	029471-0156

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	2002/0072929	A1	Azuma	6/13/2002	
	A2	2002/0082894	A1	Azuma	6/27/2002	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A3	JP	8-65335	A	FUJI XEROX CO LTD	03/08/1996		
	A4	JP	183391	A	NEC CORP	6/28/2002		
	A5	JP	8-314827	A	HITACHI LTD	11/29/1996		
	A6	JP	2002-183421	A	NEC CORP	6/28/2002		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.